

January 28, 2004

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Presentation:
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service,
CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Today, Frank Sanzillo (a consultant for Western Wireless), my colleague Jim Blundell, and I spoke on the telephone today with Carl Johnson, an aide to the Universal Service Joint Board and to New York Commissioner/Joint Board Member, Thomas Dunleavy of New York.

We discussed the negative ramifications of the Joint Board recommending to the FCC that it adopt a primary line restriction for the purposes of limiting the distribution of High Cost universal service support. No documents were distributed.

If you have any questions, then please contact me at 202-654-5903.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Rubin
Director of Federal Government Affairs
Western Wireless Corp.